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PUBLIC INFORMATION STATEMENT  
NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE DES MOINES IA  
800 AM CDT FRI APR 10 2009

...THIS IS SEVERE WEATHER AWARENESS WEEK IN IOWA...

GOVERNOR CHET CULVER...THE IOWA HOMELAND SECURITY AND EMERGENCY  
MANAGEMENT DIVISION...AND THE NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE HAVE  
DESIGNATED THE WEEK OF APRIL 6 TO APRIL 10 AS SEVERE WEATHER  
AWARENESS WEEK IN IOWA. EACH MORNING THIS WEEK...THE NATIONAL  
WEATHER SERVICE IN DES MOINES WILL ISSUE A PUBLIC INFORMATION  
STATEMENT FOCUSING ON A DIFFERENT ITEM EACH DAY. TOPICS THIS  
YEAR INCLUDES THE FOLLOWING...

MONDAY...FLOODING  
TUESDAY...SEVERE THUNDERSTORMS  
WEDNESDAY...TORNADOES  
THURSDAY... NOAA ALL HAZARDS WEATHER RADIO  
FRIDAY...FAMILY PREPAREDNESS

ATTENTION MEDIA...IN ORDER FOR SEVERE WEATHER AWARENESS WEEK TO  
BE EFFECTIVE...MEDIA COVERAGE IS CRITICAL. PLEASE USE THE  
INFORMATION IN THE PUBLIC INFORMATION STATEMENTS IN YOUR NEWS  
PROGRAMS TO HELP PROMOTE SEVERE WEATHER SAFETY. WE ALSO  
ENCOURAGE MEDIA INTERVIEWS. PLEASE CONTACT JEFF JOHNSON IF YOU  
ARE INTERESTED.

TODAY/S TOPIC IS FAMILY PREPAREDNESS (CONTENT COURTESY OF THE  
DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY AND EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT  
DIVISION)...

KEY ELEMENTS OF A DISASTER PLAN

FOLLOW THESE STEPS WHEN BUILDING YOUR FAMILY EMERGENCY  
PREPAREDNESS/DISASTER PLAN...

- 1) LEARN ABOUT POSSIBLE DANGERS IN YOUR AREA AND BECOME FAMILIAR  
WITH YOUR COMMUNITY/S DISASTER RESPONSE PLAN.
- 2) TALK TO YOUR FAMILY ABOUT WHAT TO DO IN THE EVENT OF AN  
EMERGENCY. PICK TWO LOCATIONS WHERE YOU WILL MEET - ONE RIGHT  
OUTSIDE YOUR HOME AND ANOTHER REMOVED FROM YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD TO  
BE USED IF YOU ARE UNABLE TO RETURN TO YOUR RESIDENCE.
- 3) DEVELOP A CRISIS COMMUNICATIONS PLAN TO INSURE THAT YOUR  
FAMILY WILL BE ABLE TO STAY IN CONTACT IF SEPARATED DURING A  
DISASTER.
- 4) CREATE EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS KITS FOR YOUR HOME...OFFICE AND  
CAR.
- 5) PRACTICE YOUR PLAN.

ASSEMBLE AN EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS KIT  
BASIC ITEMS INCLUDE:

- BATTERY-OPERATED RADIO AND FLASHLIGHT
  - WATER
  - FOOD
  - FIRST-AID SUPPLIES
  - CLOTHING
  - BEDDING
  - SPECIALTY ITEMS...MEDICATIONS...IMPORTANT FAMILY DOCUMENTS...BABY FORMULA AND DIAPERS
- CREATE A FAMILY COMMUNICATION PLAN CHOOSE AN OUT-OF-TOWN PERSON AS A POINT OF CONTACT FOR FAMILY MEMBERS TO CALL IF SEPARATED DURING AN EMERGENCY.

DEVELOP A FAMILY EVACUATION PLAN...

- PLAN ROUTES FROM YOUR RESIDENCE TO A SAFE LOCATION.
- PLAN FOR WHAT YOU WOULD NEED TO TAKE WITH YOU SHOULD YOU NEED TO LEAVE YOUR HOME FOR AN UNKNOWN PERIOD OF TIME.

ENSURE ALL FAMILY MEMBERS KNOW WHERE TO GO SHOULD YOU BE SEPARATED.

RADIO MESSAGES WILL INFORM YOU OF SPECIFIC ROUTES AND SHELTER AREAS SHOULD A MAJOR INCIDENT OCCUR.

BE PREPARED TO SHELTER IN PLACE IF NECESSARY...

LOCAL OFFICIALS MAY ADVISE YOU TO SHELTER IN PLACE OR REMAIN INDOORS TO PROTECT YOURSELF. IF INSTRUCTED TO SHELTER IN PLACE:

- GO INSIDE IMMEDIATELY
- TAKE YOUR DISASTER SUPPLY KIT
- GO TO AN INTERIOR ROOM WITHOUT WINDOWS

MAKE PLANS FOR YOUR PETS MOST SHELTERS DO NOT ACCEPT PETS.

PREPARE A LIST OF KENNELS...FRIENDS AND FAMILY MEMBERS WHO MAY BE ABLE TO CARE FOR YOUR PET IN AN EMERGENCY.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS VISIT [WWW.READY.GOV](http://WWW.READY.GOV).

NOAA/S NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE IS THE PRIMARY SOURCE OF WEATHER...WATER AND CLIMATE INFORMATION. THE NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE OPERATES THE MOST ADVANCED WEATHER AND FLOOD WARNING AND FORECAST SYSTEM IN THE WORLD HELPING TO PROTECT LIVES AND PROPERTY AND ENHANCE THE NATIONAL ECONOMY.

FOR MORE WEATHER EDUCATIONAL MATERIAL...VISIT THE NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE WEBSITE AT [WWW.WEATHER.GOV/DESMOINES](http://WWW.WEATHER.GOV/DESMOINES).

THIS CONCLUDES SEVERE WEATHER AWARENESS WEEK 2009. THANK EVERYONE FOR PARTICIPATING.

JEFF JOHNSON  
WARNING AND COORDINATION METEOROLOGIST  
NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE DES MOINES IA  
[WWW.WEATHER.GOV/DESMOINES](http://WWW.WEATHER.GOV/DESMOINES)

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